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H: Murray

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Dear Senator Nickles:

Thank you for your inquiry of April 20 on behalf of
concerning Raoul Wallenberg.

The President, the Department of State, and Congress
share a strong concern about the fate of Mr. Wallenberg.
The U.S. Government takes every opportunity to make this
concern known to the Soviet authorities.

Reflecting U.S. interest in this case, President Reagan
signed into law in October 1984 a bill conferring honorary
U.S. citizenship upon Raoul Wallenberg. Honoring
Mr. Wallenberg in this fashion was an important symbolic
act. It has made the Soviets and the rest of the world
aware of our great admiration for his courage and dedication
to humanity. In addition, it stressed our abhorrence for
his unjust and illegal punishment by the Soviet Government.

To emphasize further our dedication to resolve the
mystery of Mr. Wallenberg's fate, we raised his case with
the Soviets through diplomatic channels after he was made an
honorary citizen. To date, the Soviets have not responded.
However, our efforts to resolve the tragic mystery of
Mr. Wallenberg's fate will continue until the Soviets
provide a full and satisfactory clarification of their
actions in his case.

We have pressed our efforts both in bilateral meetings
and international forums, such as the Conference on Security
and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Review Meeting in Madrid
and the U.N. Human Rights Commission. In 1982, the
U.S. Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Commission
urged the Soviet Union to make "a humanitarian gesture which
would contribute to universal good-feeling, namely a renewed
search and full report, which may lay questions to rest; or
else in the best of all possible outcomes, result in the
discovery of the whereabouts of a man who stands among the
heroes of our time." At a February 1983 session of the
Commission, the U.S. Alternate Representative again raised
the issue of Raoul Wallenberg, whom he termed "one of the

The Honorable
Don Nickles,
United States Senate.

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genuine heroes of World War II, and one of the war's most noble spirits." He suggested the U.N. Human Rights Commission's Working Group on Disappearances be authorized to "make a renewed search and a full report" on the case.

We continue to work closely with the Swedish Government to investigate reports alleging that Mr. Wallenberg might still be alive. Thus far, we have been unable to substantiate this information. Nevertheless, we will maintain a cooperative effort with the Swedish Government and other interested parties to seek information that will clarify the fate of this brave man.

On January 17, 1985, President Reagan issued a statement to mark the fortieth anniversary of Raoul Wallenberg's disappearance and to commemorate "his heroic deeds in saving thousands of Hungarian Jews." In his statement, the President said, "We will continue to insist that the Soviet Union has a moral obligation to answer, once and for all, the questions we have about his fate."

Sincerely,


William L. Ball, III
Assistant Secretary
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

Enclosure:

Correspondence returned.

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